[English]

Assistance for Industrial Development in Orissa

1938. SHRI MURLIDHAR JENA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Central assistance sanctioned for industrial development in Orissa during last three years; and

(b) the criteria laid down in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). The primary responsibility for industrial development rests with the State Governments. The Ministry of Industry has sponsored the Growth Centre Scheme for granting Central assistance to support industrial development in the States. Three growth centres were allocated to the State of Orissa for implmentation by the State Government. No central releases could be made to these three centres in the last three years as appraisal of the projects, are yet to be completed. Special reports from the State Government are awaited.

Export of Pepper

1939. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether ther is any decline in export of pepper during 1995-96 in comparison to the corresponding year.

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have received any representation from All India Spice Exporters Forum for extending cess-exeption for pepper;

(d) if so, the details thereof, and

(e) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Yes Sir. The details of export of pepper during the last two years are given below

Year	Qty. (MT)	Value (Rs. Crores)
1994-95	36.536	234.61
1995-96(P)	25.401	193.50

(P) *Provisional*

Source : DGCIS, Calcutta

(b) The main reason for decline in pepper exports during 1995-96 was depressed demand in USA, the major importing country.

(c) and (d) Cess on export of certain spices, including pepper (except green pepper in brine) was exempted upto 31.03.1996. A suggestion to extend cess exemption was received from All India Spice exporters Forum.

(e) Review of taxation burden on exports, including cess is an on-going process, and, as and when considered necessary, exemptions on specified items are notified.

Non-Payment of Salaries to T.T.C.I. Workers

1940. SHRI R.B. RAI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether tea garden workers in Darjeeling under the Tea Trading Corporation of India are not getting their salaries and other facilities for several months;

(b) if so, the total amount of such dues to be paid with the details of tea gardens, number of workers from each garden and the period of dues; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide salaries and other facilities to those workers under T.T.C.I. in time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) Position regarding outstanding salary/wages of workers as on 1st April, 1996 in respect of tea gardens in District Darjeeling owned by Tea Trading Corporation of India Ltd. is indicated in the attached Statement.

STATEMENT

Details regarding outstanding wages and salaries of workers of tea gardens owned by Tea Trading Corporation of India Ltd in Darjeeling District of West Bengal

Tea Garden	Outstanding Wages & salaries to be paid as on 1.4.96 (Rs. in lakhs)	No. of workers in the garden	Period of dues	Ration outstanding as on 1.4.96 (Rs. in lakhs)
Vah-Tukvar Tea Estate	69.36	748	Over 90 weeks	26.95
Pashok Tea Estate	65.08	959	Over 70 weeks	28.98
Potong Tea Estate	10.00	344	Over 12 weeks	7.61